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SECRET

No 8486 SD2
HQ SOUTHERN ARMY
C/O 11 ADV BASE PO
30 AUG 45

G.H.Q.
G.S. Branch
NEW DELHI.

Subject :- POST WAR LOCATIONS - UPPER LIMIT

Ref your 2906/36/SD10 of 19 Jul 45.

1. This question was discussed with Area Commanders at a Conference recently held at BANGALORE.

2. The location of a division in MADRAS is not favoured. The climate and camps there are bad and these defects are not compensated for by any advantages in training. The PALNI Divisional Area east of COIMBATORE is considered to be more suitable in every way and is recommended in preference to MADRAS. The accommodation at PALNI is temporary wartime construction and a better type of building will have to be provided if troops are to be kept there for any long period under peace conditions. Consideration will have to be given to some at least of the accommodation being nearer COIMBATORE for amenity reasons.

2. The proposals for the location of the Armoured Div in SECUNDERABAD and the Armoured Bde in AHMEDNAGAR are suitable from all points of view.

4. The country within a reasonable distance of POONA offers many valuable facilities for training of all types. Good jungle training centres are within comparatively easy reach of POONA, mangrove swamp can be found, and opportunities exist for training in Combined operations. It is however, recommended that two thirds of this Div should be located outside the station of POONA. POONA will be grossly overcrowded if a Div is stationed in it or closely around. There are certain to be a considerable number of GHQ and Army troops and establishments in the same Area.

5. It would, it is considered, be an advantage to both the Infantry and to the Armoured Corps if one infantry bde and attached troops were located in AHMEDNAGAR.

6. Another inf bde could be located in BELGAUM where it is close to jungle training areas. BELGAUM will however NOT hold a brigade without a good deal of reconstruction and until the water supply has been developed. It is suggested that Div HQ and one inf bde should be in the POONA / AUNDH area with the inf bde itself probably at AUNDH.

7. (a) It is noticed that your proposals are for a Corps HQ, Corps troop s and one Inf Div all forming part of the general reserve to be located in BANGALORE. With the exception of the very small territory composing the Civil and Military station, (an Area which may well be reduced by rendition) all the Divisional areas around BANGALORE are in MYSORE State. Is it not possible that the MYSORE Government will object to the location of British and Indian troops inside state boundary in peace time, especially if there is a change in the political situation in India ? To locate troops within the State would be a departure from the custom before the war when the small garrison in BANGA LORE was in the limits of the Civil and Military station.

(b) It should be possible to use Hospital Town at JALAHALLI where the construction is of a high standard to accommodate the postwar garrison but the accommodation in the Div Areas generally is of a low standard and a large rebuilding programme will certainly be necessitated.

8. It is presumed that forces forming the upper limit will be entitled to married accommodation at the normal peace scales. Will you please confirm, as this is an important point which must necessarily have a considerable effect upon the building programme.

Lieut-Gen

(18) T.S.P.-1-25

SECRET & PERSONAL.

VISIT OF REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE (INDIA).

TERMS OF REFERENCE.

1. The terms of reference are to consider the location in the general POONA Area of the following formations which include British troops in approximately the present proportions:-

a. Corps HQ and reduced scale of corps troops amounting to between 7,500 and 10,000 men.

b. One armd div.

c. One inf div.

d. One indep armd bde.

In addition, there are the following establishments to be accommodated:-

e. IEME Trg Centre, KIRKEE.

f. Army Medical School, GANESHKIND.

g. IAC Trg Centre and AFV School, AHMEDNAGAR.

Further, the question of what permanent accommodation there is at Belgaum apart from that of the Mahratta Light Inf Training Centre, and for what types of establishment it would be suitable, will be discussed.

BACKGROUND OF PROPOSALS SUBMITTED.

2. The location of:-

b. One Armd Div

c. One Inf Div.

d. One Indep Armd Bde

has formed the subject of a GHQ letter (2906/36/SD10 of 19 Jul '45) and the recommendations, made by HQ Southern Army to GHQ in their letter 8486/SD2 of 30 Aug which coincides with the proposals put forward from this HQ, were to the effect that:-

b. One Armd Div should be located in the SECUNDERABAD Area.

c. One Inf Div should be located as follows:-

Div (less two inf bdes)	POONA with the inf bde probably located at AUNDH.
One inf bde	AHMEDNAGAR.
One inf bde	BELGAUM.

d. One Indep Armd Bde should be located at AHMEDNAGAR.

3. The problem has been considered in the light of distribution of troops set out in para 2 and certain papers have been prepared prior to the arrival of the Committee but it may well be that ignorance of certain high policy decisions have caused me to fall into error.

4. The composition of the division has been taken to be that of an Ind Standard Div; that is composed of three inf bdes each of three inf bns plus three divisional bns (recce, mg and Div HQ).

5. Ignorance of the postwar RAF organization and strength precludes me from doing more than to assume that the war time accommodation at SAMBRE near BELGAUM might be available for Army needs.

TRAINING AREAS. 6. The locations suggested in this and the connected papers have taken into account the need for suitable training areas.

LAND, 7. Land is largely requisitioned and will require to be acquired. I have not yet been into this in detail.

WATER SUPPLY. 8. Water Supply has been considered. Considerable development will be necessary in POONA.

BUILDING. 9. As far as has been possible only PERMANENT and HUTTED (sub divided into HIGH and LOW GRADE) accommodation has been considered; and where one or other of these two types has not been available specific mention has been made. Accommodation of these types is particularly short in BELGAUM, where also much of the LOW GRADE HUTTED buildings are of bad quality and in poor condition.

Assuming that family accommodation for all ranks is to be provided on a generous scale much building will be necessary.

10. Ultimately PERMANENT accommodation will have to be substituted for HUTTED accommodation and, in view of the quality and condition of many of the HUTTED buildings, construction cannot long be delayed.

Irrespective of when construction will commence, the overall building programme will be very large and it would seem that it must be spread over a considerable number of years. I assume that the first stage will be to assess the total liability by an appreciation of the rate permanent construction must take in order to keep pace with the rate at which the HUTTED accommodation will become untenable.

INTERNAL SECURITY UNITS. 11. Allotment of accommodation to the following Internal Security Bns has been considered in submitting these proposals:-

POONA	Br. Inf Bn.
DEHU	Ind Inf Bn.
BELGAUM	Ind Inf Bn.

The location of a Br. Inf Bn at SECUNDERABAD has still to be considered.

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED. 12. The problem has been considered in the following manner:-

a. Armd Div in SECUNDERABAD Area.

Comd 172 Sub Area has considered this in detail and will be prepared to give out the proposed layout.

b. Corps HQ and Corps Tps; Div; Indep Armd Bde; and certain establishments.

Three papers as set out below have been prepared with the object of putting forward proposals of how these formations and establishments could be allocated.

i. The first paper deals with the location at AHMEDNAGAR of:-

Ind Tk Bde
Ind Inf Bde

and also

AFV School
RAC Depot
IAC Training Centre

ii. In a second paper has been considered the location at BELGAUM of:-

Ind Inf Bde
Ind Fd Regt
Certain Div Tps

and also

Mahratta Light Inf Training Centre
A large School.

iii. In a third paper suggestions are put forward how to locate in POONA the following:-

Div (less two inf bdes and some div tps)
Certain establishments.

13. The distribution of the Div to POONA, BELGAUM and AHMEDNAGAR is set out in Appendix Z.

14. No observations are necessary in respect of the papers on BELGAUM and AHMEDNAGAR, but the paper on POONA, where is met the most difficult of the three problems, calls for considerable comments which are contained in paras 15 to 20.

HQ/UNITS UNLOCATED.

15. In addition to the several Div units (shown as "unallotted" in Appendix Z) for which accommodation in POONA has not been earmarked there are the following to be housed:-

Corps HQ
7,500 - 10,000 Corps Tps.

There is no room for these headquarters or units in AHMEDNAGAR or BELGAUM unless the suggested allotment is changed. A proportion of the Corps Tps might be located in SECUNDERABAD but the majority will have to be stationed elsewhere.

LOCATION OF CORPS HQ.

16. I understand that the role of Corps HQ is to train the divisions to be located in south INDIA. Will there not be divisions in POONA, SECUNDERABAD, MADRAS/COIMBATORE and BANGALORE? If this is so, is POONA geographically the best location? NASIK would be geographically even worse than POONA.

Apart from any other reason, POONA is unsuitable as a location for a Corps HQ because:-

a. there will be several other large HQs located there; and one more is considered too many (see para 17).

b. there is no suitable accommodation available except DECCAN COLLEGE which would be better suited to the Army Medical School (see para 20).

If it is necessary to locate a Corps HQ in the present 110 L of C Area then BELGAUM should be considered. This suggestion would preclude stationing the Inf Bde there and the proposals submitted in respect of BELGAUM would have to be drastically modified. The Inf Bde might be located in NASIK, which is well situated in relation to POONA and AHMEDNAGAR, where it is proposed that the other two bdes will be housed.

Other possible locations for Corps HQ are DEHU or DHOND.

DEHU is geographically as objectionable as POONA; and the future of the numerous depots at this large Ordnance centre is obscure, but the existing accommodation, which is largely big store sheds, is unsuitable for a Corps HQ, although a proportion of the Corps Tps could be housed, albeit unsuitably.

DHOND, which has HUTTED accommodation for about 6000 troops, is geographically well located for a Corps HQ but it is doubtful whether it would not be considered too devoid of amenities. A considerable proportion of the Corps troops could be well housed there. Some Corps troops might be stationed in NASIK.

The choice therefore lies between BELGAUM and DHOND and I consider DHOND should be selected, although I doubt if this will be acceptable.

I have asked for DHOND to be allocated as the demobilisation centre for the IAMC. This will be a temporary matter lasting, say, two years. At present DHOND houses West Africans.

LOCATION OF DIV HQ & UNLOCATED DIV UNITS.

17. I consider the Div HQ should be within five miles of one of the Inf Bdes; and if this point of view is accepted then it must be situated in POONA. No accommodation is available under the scheme proposed; and either a reshuffle of units must take place, or else one of the tented camps with hutted ancillaries must be built up. PASHAN Camp would in my opinion be eminently suitable for this purpose and the unlocated Div units could also there be located.

LOCATION OF COMMAND & AREA HQ.

18. I understand that 108 and 110 L of C Areas may be combined. If this assumption is correct I consider that the resultant HQ should be located in POONA unless HQ Southern Army/Comd is moved to POONA. Nothing definite is known of the future policy in this respect.

IEME TRG CENTRE, KIRKEE.

19. This establishment is congested for its present purpose, which is to carry out all types of advanced technical training except in respect of A and B vehicles. The technical buildings are of poor design and quality; and the student personnel is in tents.

Certain expansion areas exist, but more definite information about the scope and organisation of the IEME Training to be carried out in POONA is necessary before more can be said on the subject of this Training Centre.

ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL, GANESHKIND.

20. The present site is admirably suited to be developed, but consists of HUTTED accommodation with tented living quarters.
DECCAN COLLEGE would be suited to the purpose.

SUMMARY.

21. An attempt has been made to solve the problems set out in the terms of reference. This has been done against the background as known to me. This background may well be quite wrong and is certain to be to some extent inaccurate, but the results of the preliminary work can easily be adjusted.

To locate the HQ, units and establishments, envisaged in the terms of reference, in the present confines of 110 L of C Area will require a tremendous building programme, partly construction to replace tented areas but mostly to supplant LOW GRADE HUTTED accommodation by PERMANENT accommodation. Family accommodation will be a big item.

22. If it is finally decided to locate Corps HQ in this area then it should be at DHOND, or if this is not acceptable, at BELGAUM.

23. Corps troops should be dispersed in DHOND, DEHU, NASIK and SECUNDERABAD; not necessarily in all these stations. They cannot be quartered in POONA, AHMEDNAGAR or BELGAUM.

24. Div HQ should be in POONA with a considerable proportion of Div troops and one Inf Bde. A large tented camp area will have to be replaced by PERMANENT buildings.

25. One Inf Bde should be located in AHMEDNAGAR with one bn in AURANGABAD and another Inf Bde with some Div Tps should be housed in BELGAUM. If BELGAUM is selected as the site for Corps HQ then NASIK should be considered for the Inf Bde.

26. One Indep Armd Bde should be in AHMEDNAGAR in addition to the Inf Bde.

27. The F.V.S. (A.F.V.School) is already located in AHMEDNAGAR and there is also room for a small R.A.C. Depot. It is suggested that the I.A.C.Training Centre should take over ARANGAON from the Army School of Driving and Maintenance, but the site will probably have to be expanded, depending on the size of the I.A.C.T.C.

28. The Armd Div can be located in SECUNDERABAD.

29. More information is required about the scope and size of the I.E.M.E. Training Centre, KIRKEE.

30. GANESHKIND is a suitable location for the Army Medical School but much building would be necessary. Deccan College warrants consideration.

L h Goddard

12 Sep '45. Maj-Gen.